

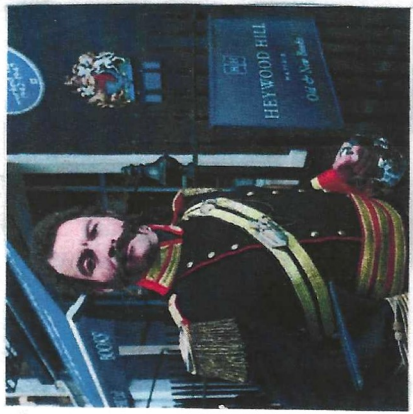
By: Valdym the Bastard
 wish I could learn
 how to make handsome lines



Flashman or How I Learned to Forgo Bravery and Love Cowardice

Flashman is a very good/funny
 book that I seem to remember
 frequently.

yeah! it's great! 😊



...but mostly I remember the
 fear that cramped my stomach
 and turned my legs to jelly as
 I listened to the crackle of
 firing before and behind,
 the screams of stricken men,
 and the triumphant
 screeching of the Afghans.

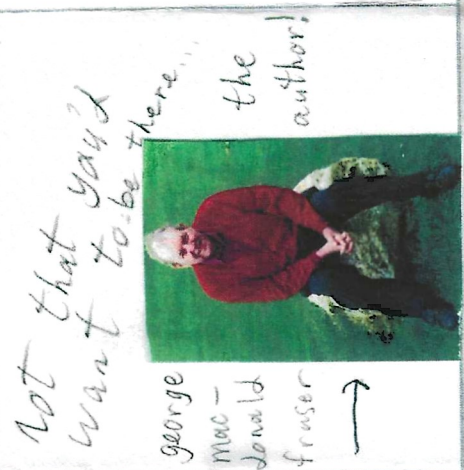
It stars an unapologetic
 antihero as he schemes his way
 through various bits of real British
 war history (and ends up
 decorated, quite undeservedly.)
 Along the way, he steals, murders,
 cheats, fornicates, toadies, and
 runs away, all the while giving
 scathingly honest commentary
 in these memoirs. how rude!

"I'd take your ladyship into my
 troop any time," says I, at which
 she simpered horribly - "but the
 other horses might be jealous," I
 says to myself quietly, at which
 the lancers set up a great laugh.



I saw an Afghan boy, once,
 chuckling to himself as he
 stabbed again and again
 at a wounded sepoy; the
 boy was not over ten years old.
 And I remember the glazed
 look in the eyes of the dying
 horses, a pair of brown feet
 marching in front of me that
 left bloody footprints on the ice...

Written by a private veteran of
 the WWII Burma campaign turned
 officer and lifelong historian, it feels
 as though you're there, in
 1800s Afghanistan.



5
 Not to mention it's very
 well-researched; it counts as a
 history lesson as well as
 an entertaining story.

6
 Some parts fun, some parts
 grim/gripping, this book is
 100% a real page turner,
 and one I won't forget.

7
 The following pages are an
 example of Fraser's
 exceptional writing prowess;
 while reading, these (among
 others) hit me like a punch in
 the gut.

"I have nothing to add, either
 in comment or attempted
 explanation, after forty-five years.
 This is what happened, and that's all."
 -From George MacDonald
 Fraser's own WWII memoir

Knowledge is power!
 "In fact some prisoners were
 taken by the Afghans at
 Gandamak, including Captain
 Souter of the 44th Regiment,
 one of two men who wrapped
 the battalion colors round their
 bodies (the other man was killed)."